

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 09946 082054Z

10  
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-03

FEA-01 INT-05 NSC-05 STR-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/066 W

----- 126236

R 081849Z OCT 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8104  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 09946

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EGEN, EAID, ETRD, BE, PINR  
SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES WITH NEW  
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS

REF: STATE 224063

1. SUMMARY. NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AT  
BELGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS GROOTHAERT INTENDS TO  
CONCENTRATE ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES AND PLANS TO STRENGTHEN  
HIS DIRECTORATE IN THIS AREA. HE WILL BE GOING TO PARIS WITH  
TOUSSAINT, MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, ON OCTOBER 20 TO DISCUSS  
EC INITIATIVES FOR FORTHCOMING CIEC MEETINGS. IN PARTICULAR,  
THE FRENCH ARE SEEKING A BELGIAN REACTION TO GISCARD'S  
AFRICA FUND. GROOTHAERT IS INTERESTED IN US POSITION ON  
GISCARD'S PROPOSAL AND HAS US IRB PROPOSAL UNDER ACTIVE  
STUDY. END SUMMARY.

2. JACQUES GROOTHAERT, DIRECTOR GENRAL FOR ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO HAS JUST  
TAKEN OVER AS DEDOBBELEER'S REPLACEMENT, TOLD EUMBASSY  
OFFICER HE INDENTDS TO STRENGTHEN HIS DIRECTORATE TO IMPROVE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 09946 082054Z

FOCUS AND CONCENTRATION ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES HE INTENDS

PERSONALLY TO TAKE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IN HIS DIRECTORATE FOR THESE MATTERS AND SPEND LESS TIME THAN HIS PREDECESSOR ON BILATERAL PROBLEMS. TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE, HE IS APPOINTING HERMAN DEHENNIN, WHO HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MTN NEGOTIATIONS, AS HIS FULL-TIME DEPUTY AND WILL NAME SOMEONE ELSE IN THE DIRECTORATE FOR THE MTN FUNCTION. GROOTHAERT ALSO SAID THAT HE PLANS TO OBTAIN A SENIOR OFFICER FROM ANOTHER POST TO FOLLOW FINANCIAL ISSUES, WHICH HE REGARDS AS CENTRAL TO THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. UP TO NOW, THE DIRECTORATE HAS NOT HAD A SPECIALIST ON FINANCIAL MATTERS, LEAVING THESE ISSUES TO THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. GROOTHAERT IS LOOKING TOWARD HAVING THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXERCISE GREATER INFLUENCE IN THE FINANCIAL AREA.

3. ALTHOUGH GROOTHAERT SAID HE PLANNED TO TRAVEL LESS THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, HE IS GOING TO PARIS ON OCTOBER 20 WITH TOUSSAINT, MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, TO SEE HIS COUNTERPART, FROMENT-MEURICE, AND POSSIBLY RAYMOND BARRE. PURPOSE IS TO DISCUSS CONCRETE, SPECIFIC EC INITIATIVES FOR THE CIEC. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, ACCORDING TO GROOTHAERT, UNDER DAVIGNON'S DIRECTION, IS SEEKING TO DEVELOP WITH ITS EC PARTNERS INITIATIVES WHICH COULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GROUP OF 19 IN CIEC, LEADING TO POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT THE NEXT MEETINGS IN PARIS. BELGIAN AUTHORITIES ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS FOR PROPOSALS WHICH WILL AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THEY ARE PURSUING THEIR TRADITIONAL ROLE AS MIDDLEMEN IN THE EC TO SUPPLY NEW THINKING WHICH WILL RESULT IN INITIATIVES ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH EC MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

4 GROOTHAERT SAID FRENCH HAVE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED. BELGIAN REACTION TO GISCARD'S AFRICA FUND. AT THIS TIME, BELGIANS HAVE NOT YET REACHED A POSITION ON THIS PROPOSAL SINCE THEY CONSIDER THAT IT IS STILL TOO VAGUE, AND THEY INTEND TO DISCUSS IT IN MORE DETAIL DURING THEIR VISIT TO PARIS BEFORE TAKING A FINAL DECISION.

5. IN THIS CONNECTION GROOTHAERT ASKED WHETHER US CONSIDERS GISCARD'S PROPOSAL COMPETITIVE WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 09946 082054Z

RESOURCES BANK PROPOSAL, WHICH BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING, BASED ON DETAILED MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY THE EMBASSY. EMBASSY OFFICER ASSURED HIM WE DID NOT CONSIDER PROPOSALS COMPETITIVE OR MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE AND THAT THE SECRETARY SUPPORTED THE FUND IDEA IN PRINCIPLE (REFTEL). GROOTHAERT SEEMED VERY RELIEVED AT THIS INDICATION THAT WE WERE NOT OPPOSING GISCARD'S PROPOSAL AND THIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S

POSITION ON THIS INITIATIVE.

6. GROOTHAERT NOTED THAT BELGIUM HAD SUPPORTED THE US IRB PROPOSAL AT NAIROBI, THAT THEY WERE STUDYING OUR MODIFIED BANK PROPOSAL IN A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP, AND HOPED TO HAVE A BELGIAN POSITION SOON FOR DISCUSSION IN THE EC FRAMEWORK.

7. ALTHOUGH NEW TO THE SPECIFIC SUBJECT MATTER FOR WHICH HE HAS RESPONSIBILITY, GROOTHAERT CAME TO HIS PRESENT POST WITH IMPRESSIVE CREDENTIALS AND OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCE. HIS IMMEDIATE PREVIOUS POST WAS PEKING WHERE HE WAS BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE PRC AND NORTH VIETNAM. HE HAS SERVED IN PRAGUE, MOSCOW, TWICE IN MEXICO (ONCE AS AMBASSADOR), PARIS, LEOPOLDVILLE (1960-61), SAN FRANCISCO (1961), AND LONDON (1965-67). HE IS EAGER, AMBITIOUS TO PERFORM WELL AND SHOW ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND WELL DISPOSED TO THE UNITED STATES. HE IS FRENCH-SPEAKING, AND HIS ENGLISH IS FLUENT. IN THE SHORT TIME SINCE HE HAS COME ABOARD, HE HAS BEEN ACCESSIBLE TO EMBASSY OFFICERS AND APPRECIATIVE OF OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN OF AMERICAN POSITIONS AND THE AMERICAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SCENE. HE WILL CLEARLY SEEK ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH THE US ON IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ISSUES IN NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR VIEWS WE CAN PROVIDE GROOTHAERT PRIOR TO HIS TRIP TO PARIS OCTOBER 20, PARTICULARLY ON THE US POSITION ON GISCARD'S AFRICAN FUND, WOULD BE USEFUL. FIRESTONE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BRUSSE09946  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760381-0891  
**From:** BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761069/aaaachzn.tel  
**Line Count:** 143  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 224063  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES WITH NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
**TAGS:** EGEN, EAID, ETRD, PINR, BE, US, FR, (GROOTHAERT, JACQUES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006